

Reflection: The Baptism of our Lord

Today we recall the beginning of Jesus ministry in Israel.

I once heard it said that in our statement of belief, Jesus' whole life and ministry is encapsulated in a full stop, all thirty years skipped over. Here's the Nicene Creed, to remind you....

*For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human ●*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.*

And that's how it feels, just twenty days after we celebrated his birth, we are about to cast him into the desert for forty days. My, how time flies!

So today, we recall in the season of Epiphany, the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. This was and is a moment when we all see things in a new light. It is interesting how new ideas and understandings come at the most odd moments – you just don't need to be in church to have a new revelation regarding God's work on this earth.

I find doing laundry tasks to be good moments for prayer and revelations! Whilst pegging out wet clothes, I wondered about symbols and the wordless messages that we gain from them. I pictured the dove that people saw in the moment when Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit and surfaced from his dunking in the Jordan. Why a dove, I pondered, a symbol that to me means hope and peace?

What other images do we have for the Holy Spirit? Fire? Wind? So, why a dove?

Then I remembered Noah in his ark, who sent out a series of birds to see if they would return with an indication that the flood waters were subsiding and life returning. Do you recall that it was the dove, with a sprig from an olive tree who finally gave them hope of a new life, and substance to God's promises. And here is Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, here to do the same thing, to bring hope of new life and reality to God's promises to us all.

The Lord be with you and those for whom you pray.

Elizabeth

Pew Sheet: Material for inclusion in Pew Sheets should be given to Alf by Wednesday evening.



Shining Christ's Light on the Peninsula

*Welcome
To
Worship in Our Parish*

January 13th 2019

The Baptism of our Lord

First Sunday after Epiphany

Normal Service Times

Sundays

8:00 am St Mark's Leopold & St Paul's Whittington
10:00 am St Mark's Leopold & St Barnabas' Newcomb

Wednesday - 10:00 am

No services during January
Services resume February 6th @ St Barnabas'

Morning Prayer @ St Barnabas' - 9 am

Mon - Tue - Wed - Fri - Sat

Parish Identity

BGAP : A community who loves God and everyone else.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to enable individuals to recognize and carry out their ministries as Christians. Through this, we strive to become a model company of faithful people who both honour their varied traditions and actively share in building the family of Christ.

MINISTRY TEAM

Vicar: Rev'd Elizabeth Breakey 5250 1401; 0404 165 096

Email: vicar@bgap.church

Father Jim Minchin 0427 056 654, frjbminchin@gmail.com

Mr Wayne Stewart 0414 503 300; wayne@bgap.church; Child Safety Officer

Mrs Wilma Farrell 5244 5537; Pastoral Ministry

Parish web-site: www.bgap.church

Direct payments donation account: BSB 703 122 A/c #0500 4734 (identify recipient)

Today's Readings

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalms 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-22

Next Week's Readings

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalms 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

Parish Prayer

'Lord you are in the midst of us and we are called by your name. Guide us in our worship and life together: transform us into whatever you would have us do. Help us to be deeply connected with the world around us and strengthen us to proclaim the good news in word and deed in this community, for the glory and for the growth of your kingdom.. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.



Prayers for Healing: Please pray for the healing of body, mind and spirit of the following people who are on our hearts: Travers family; Hooper/Travers families; Sheila S; Amy, baby & Roscoe; Jack & Ria Humphrey, Alan, Matthew R, Joel, Colin, Pat, Val & John, Des M, Barbara S, Pam, Barb, Cassie & family.

(We would like to keep this list current so we need to know how your loved ones are faring. Please let us know. If you have any names, please let Alf know but only after obtaining permission from the person involved.)

Known Happy Birthdays: Ted Freeman 17th, Jill Giddings 19th

Known Happy Anniversaries: Gloria & Bill Lang 15th, Elizabeth & Eric Billing 16th



In Baptism, Christ knits us all together into his body and in doing that we become a part of him here on earth. The Christian life is one in which we are called to follow Christ in everything that we do, and it's our belief that in us God will recognise Christ. When the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in his baptism by John the Baptist, the voice comes from heaven saying, 'You are my son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased'. In our baptisms as well as in our lives we can expect that God says much the same, that we are his beloved children and with us he is pleased.

* Pray that God may direct you towards new ways of life to live more closely to him and be more pleasing to him.



Welcome to our service today - the Baptism of Our Lord. We hope you find your time worshipping God enjoyable and enriching. Please stay after the service for a cup of tea/coffee and fellowship.

For your diary:

Monday Crafternoon Tea in recess during January

Friday January 18th Parish Council Planning Meeting

Message from Ted Freeman: To all the ladies at St Mark's Women's Fellowship, and their friends, who helped with the preparation of afternoon tea, which was a lovely assortment of sandwiches and cakes. My family and I would like to thank you all for your very kind efforts in making the day a much happier one. Many thanks. *Ted Freeman*

Christmas Bowl: A reminder to please bring your Christmas Bowl money on or before Sunday 20th January.

Vicar's leave: Rev'd Elizabeth is taking a break with her family from Monday 21st to Monday 28th January.

Parish Council Planning Meeting: Next Friday 18th January, 9.30 to 12.30 in the Moller Room at St Mark's.

Vale: The funeral of Archdeacon Bill Beagley will be held at 10.30am Thursday 17th January at Holy Trinity Williamstown. He was the acting Archdeacon for this area for a short while, and his humour and friendship will be missed by all who knew him.

Lenten Studies: Preparations for a Lenten Study series are underway, watch this space for more details.

Hall for hire: The beautifully renovated St Barnabas' Hall has availability for more groups to rent sessions during the week. Please spread the word. Interested groups should contact Gordon Dendle (Hall booking officer) on 5250 1333 for more details.

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God help us to change. To change ourselves and to change our world. To know the need for it. To deal with the pain of it. To feel the joy of it. To undertake the journey without understanding the destination. The art of gentle revolution.
Amen.

(From: A Common Prayer - A Cartoonist talks to God by Leunig)